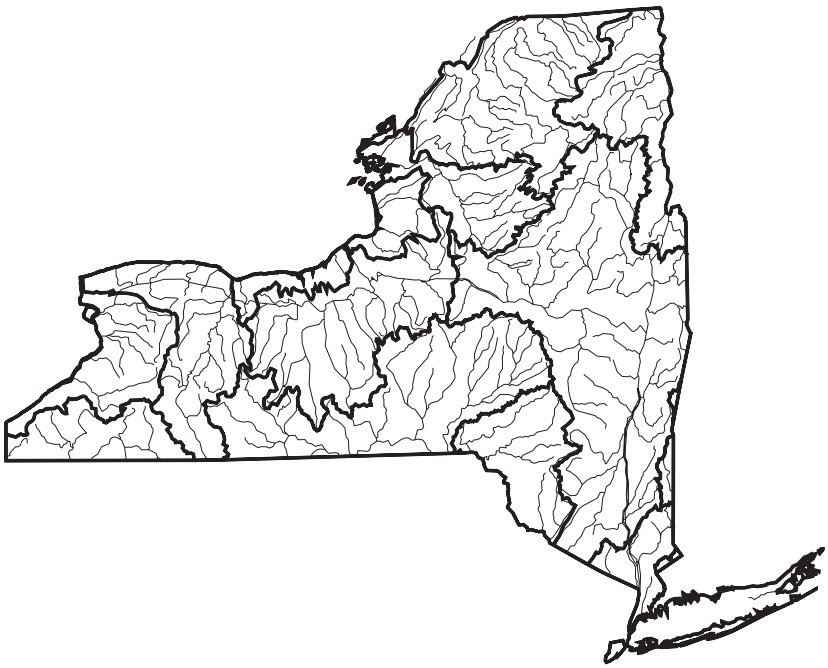
New York



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the New York 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Ninety-one percent of New York's rivers and streams, over 73% of the State's lake acres, 97% of the State's Great Lakes shoreline, and 99% of the bays and tidal waters have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses. Swimming is fully supported in 99% of the surveyed rivers, 78% of the surveyed lakes, 80% of the Great Lakes shoreline, and more than 93% of the surveyed estuarine waters. Eighty-five percent of New York's Great Lake's shoreline does not fully support fish consumption use because of a fish consumption advisory.

Agriculture is a major source of nutrients and silt that impair New York's rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Hydrologic modification and habitat modification are also a major source of water quality impairment in rivers and lakes. Urban runoff is a major source of pollution in the State's estuaries. Bacteria from urban runoff and other sources close about 200,000 acres (16%) of potential shellfishing beds.

Contaminated sediments are the primary source of 18% of the impaired rivers, 20% of the impaired lakes, 89% of the impaired Great Lake's shoreline, and 51% of the impaired estuarine waters in New York State. Sediments are contaminated with PCBs, chlorinated organic pesticides, mercury, cadmium, mirex, and dioxins that bioconcentrate in the food chain and result in fish consumption advisories.

Sewage treatment plant construction and upgrades have had a significant impact on water quality. Since 1972, the size of rivers impacted by municipal sewage treatment facilities has declined from about 2,000 miles to 300 miles.

Ground Water Quality

About 3% of the State's public water supply system wells (160 wells) are closed or abandoned due to contamination from organic chemicals. The most common contaminants are synthetic solvents and degreasers, gasoline and other petroleum products, and agricultural pesticides and herbicides (primarily aldicarb and carbofuran). The

most common sources of organic solvents in ground water are spills, leaks, and improper handling at industrial and commercial facilities.

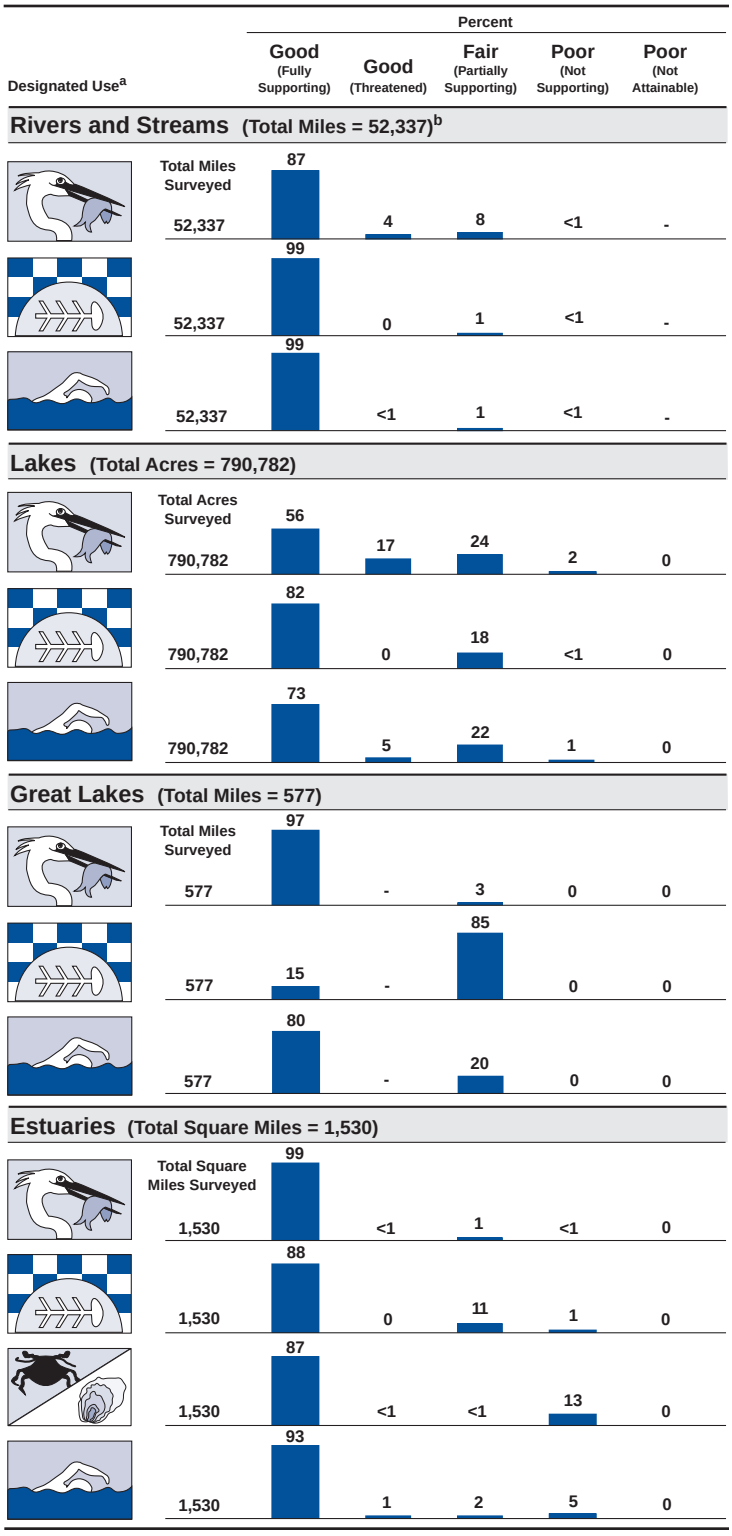
Programs to Restore Water Quality

Virtually every county of the State has a county water quality coordinating committee composed of local agencies (such as Cornell Cooperative Extension and soil and water conservation districts), local representatives from State and Federal agencies, and public interest groups. The county committees meet regularly to discuss local priorities and fashion local strategies to address nonpoint source pollution.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

In 1987, New York State implemented the Rotating Intensive Basin Studies (RIBS), an ambient monitoring program that concentrates monitoring activities on one-third of the State's hydrologic basins for 2-year periods. The DEC monitors the entire State every 6 years. Intensive monitoring clarifies cause-and-effect relationships between pollutants and water quality, measures the effectiveness of implemented pollution controls, and supports regulatory decisions.

Individual Use Support in New York



– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of New York's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.